

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-6, 16, 23, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Applicant has withdrawn claims 12-15 pursuant to the restriction requirement.

The Examiner argues that it would be obvious to replace the mounting bolt and pin connection of Aron with the retractable projection of Gill. Claim 1 had been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection 103(a) based on Aron and Gill. Claim 1 states the use of "a retractable projection for holding the mounting pin in the mounting bolt," and "a release button disposed remotely from the retractable projection for selectively retracting the retractable projection." Gill teaches using a standard snap fit latching mechanism, which is distinct from military pins, and the release button is not disposed remotely from the retractable projection. Therefore, a combination of Gill and Aron does not make the present invention obvious. Thus Claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon should be allowed.

Applicant contends that claim 16 should be allowed. Claim 16 states a bolt having a hole for receiving a mounting pin. The bolt (44) taught by Aron has a hole in its shaft, but *not a hole in the bolt head* or a hole for receiving a *mounting pin*. Also, in the attachment mechanism taught in the present invention, the retaining members used to retain the pin are protrusions comprising the pin, not a separate entity as the hairpin taught in Aron. Also Gill does not teach of a release on a mounting pin. Gill incorporates the attachment mechanism which depresses to fit inside a metal bar, like a snap fit latch. When aligned with an opening in the metal bar, a lug springs upward to fit within the opening thus latching the attachment mechanism and the metal bar. To uncouple the two devices, the lug of the attachment mechanism is depressed and dislodged from the opening. There is no release. The user

must depress the "protrusion" or lug. In the present invention, the protrusion are not depressed to uncouple the mounting pin and the bolt, a release button uncouples the two devices.

Applicant contends that claim 23 should be allowed. Claim 23 states a method of attachment where the mounting bolt has a hole therein configured to receive a mounting pin. As argued before, neither Aron nor Gill teach the use of a bolt with a hole in the bolt head to receive a mounting pin. Claim 23 also states that the hole has a "detent formed therein and configured for receiving projections from a mounting pin and the mounting pin has at least one retractable projection." Finally, Claim 23 teaches of "inserting the mounting pin into the mounting bolt so that at least one retractable projection of the mounting pin nests in the detent." Neither Aron nor Gill teach of a detent within a bolt. Gill does teach of a opening where a lug protrudes, however this is not equivalent to the use of a detent within a bolt to receive protrusions of the mounting pin. Thus, Applicant contends that claim 23 should be allowed.

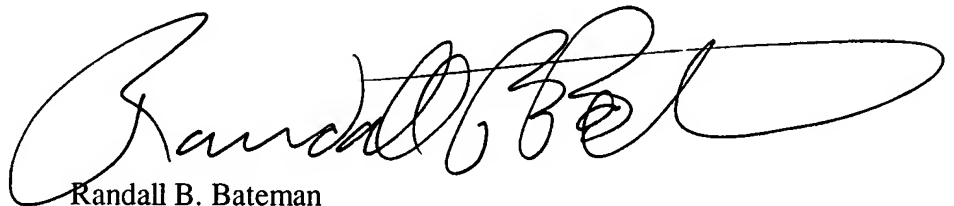
Applicant contends that claim 28 should be allowed because the elements of claim 28 are not contained in the teachings of Aron or Gill. Claim 28 describes a method for mounting a saddlebag on a motorcycle using a bolt having a hole therein configured to receive a mounting pin, inserting the mounting pin into the mounting bolt, and releasing the saddlebag from attachment to the mounting bolt by pressing a release button on the mounting pin. Aron and Gill do not teach to use a bolt having a hole to receive a mounting pin *into* the mounting bolt. Aron uses a hairpin to secure the attachment of two devices, however the hairpin is not received into a mounting bolt. Also, Aron and Gill do not teach of using a release button on a mounting pin to uncouple the two devices. Therefore, claim 28 should be allowed.

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Claims 7, 10, 11, 17, 18, 20, 24, 25, and 29 have been rewritten in independent form to overcome the rejection of the Examiner.

With respect to this response, Applicant contends that all claims should be allowed, except the claims withdrawn. Should the Examiner determine that additional adverse action is necessary, it is requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at (801) 533-0320 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. Applicant has included a credit card authorization to cover the additional independent claim charges. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any amount owing for this case or to credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-2720.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2004.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randall B. Bateman".

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